

[Mr. R. Krishnaswami Aiyar.]

what principle of justice is involved in the complaint. The remedy for the complaint will be, as I have said before, to equalise the pay of persons who have the same examination qualification and are doing more or less the same kind of work. The difficulty in that arrangement is a financial one. That is why a committee has been constituted to make proposals for improving the pay and prospects of Vernacular school teachers and suggest ways and means for financing the proposals. I can understand that a principle is involved in devising such a remedy, viz., that men of equal qualification, doing more or less the same kind of work, should be paid the same salary. That appears to me to be a sounder principle than any that may be supposed to be involved in the resolution of Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.

I may refer to another class of teachers, that is, *Munshies*. In the current academic year, five *Munshies'* posts fell vacant in English schools, and men for all the five were selected from Vernacular school. Three of them were Vernacular Higher men, of whom two were Headmasters and the third was a *Munshi* in a Training school. We took the two others from Tamil schools. It will not be possible for the department to thus appoint men from outside to all vacancies occurring in English schools. But I mention this fact so that the House may know that the Inspector of English Schools and the Director have not been unmindful of the interests of the teachers of Vernacular schools. Once again, I may assure the House that the Director will take all possible steps to improve the prospects of E. S. L. C. holders appointed in Vernacular schools whenever opportunities occur in future and to the extent it can be done without seriously affecting the vested interests of those who have been acting as teachers in English schools for long periods. Claims for transfer to the English section of V. H. men and *Munshies* in Vernacular schools will also be considered.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Do you press the motion to a division, Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): By all means.

The resolution was put to the vote of the House and carried.

ADULT EDUCATION.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I beg to move the following resolution:—

This Council recommends to the Government that a fair percentage of their total expenditure on education be set apart for adult education of the labouring classes.

In moving this resolution, I wish to impress upon the attention of the Government the importance of adult education. Education is the training of human beings in the art and science of right living. Mere teaching of writing, reading and arithmetical calculation is but a very small part of education.

In the schools and colleges very little of real education in the proper sense is effected at present. A comprehensive reform of the whole educational policy and the system of education so as to suit them to the real object of education is very necessary.

The main defect of present day education in Travancore is that it is not properly correlated to the actual needs of life of the vast majority of the people. The greater portion of the training and the knowledge acquired in schools and colleges is of no use in ordinary life, and many things in the matter of training, character and knowledge which are essential for right living are wholly neglected in schools and colleges. It is as a remedy for this State of things that I suggest that Government should direct their attention to adult education of the 'labouring classes'. I use the term 'labouring classes' in a wide sense. I consider that all the members of this Council belong to the labouring classes. The majority of the members of the classes to which we belong are very deficient in proper education. We ourselves, the so-called educated persons are deficient in several directions. I suggest the following methods for making a beginning in the direction of imparting real education to the subjects of the State. The scope of the Education Department should be widened so that, some at least of the schools may be made a vital centre of general education including that of adults who stand in need of the same. In connection with every such school, the Government should arrange for reading lessons and lectures for adults on useful subjects such as morals, civics, domestic hygiene and law, necessary in the ordinary affairs of life, etc. There should also be a library of good books on all subjects in each such institution. Arrangements should be made to lend these books for reading to those who need them. Of course, arrangements should be made for teaching, reading, writing, etc., to adults who stand in need of the same. It will be desirable if possible to have even in primary schools one teacher at least with a fair knowledge of the art and science of right living so as to serve as a dynamic force to rouse and co-ordinate the efforts of the people of the locality in the direction of true education. The teachers should be allowed all legitimate freedom to take part in the ordinary life of the people, of course, without taking part in seditious movements. It is only actual ordinary life that can give a person the necessary training and knowledge that is required for right living. The present system of education in which education is divorced from the ordinary life of the citizens is the main cause of all the poverty, confusion, demoralisation and corruption that are rampant in the country at present. Teachers and students including those of the colleges live in a very artificial atmosphere at present and they have no convenience therefore for getting any real training and knowledge in the art and science of right living. For the purpose of adult education, the Government should conduct at least a weekly paper of fair dimensions dealing with morals, civics, domestic medicine and hygiene, domestic economy and ordinary legal matters, agriculture, industries, etc., in a popular and attractive manner.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Why don't you start one?

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): The paper should be supplied free or at a nominal cost to all schools, or at least to those of them which are chosen as centres of adult education. Political subjects should also be included in the paper so as to represent all reasonable points of view expressed in moderate and reasonable language. The mistakes in the ordinary newspaper and other publications, circulating among the people in regard to civics, medicine, political matters, law and other subjects should be sought to be corrected by the educational publication undertaken by the Government. These are some of the directions in which the Government can make a very useful beginning in the matter of adult education. For a paper to be conducted and supplied more or less free or at a nominal cost to others, a private agency or a private person will not be financially able. So the matter should be taken up by the Government. I learn that even in England, the necessity for a Government publication of some such sort is felt. Therefore it should be much more so in our country where, as has been pointed out by the Government members, there are so many deficiencies, defects and dangers arising from ordinary newspapers and publications. So it is the duty of the Government to combat them in a legitimate manner, not by suppressing them but by exposing their weaknesses and by supplying something better. With these words, I move the resolution.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil cum Devicolan*): I second the resolution because I do not wish to see the resolution fall through for want of a seconder.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. Joseph, in seconding, it is not necessary that you should say the particular reason for which you do it.

MR. R. KRISHNASWAMI AIYAR (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, when I received the text of the resolution, it did not seem to me that it embraced all the various topics that were referred to by Mr. G. Raman Menon. All that I was prepared for was a discussion on night-schools and probably on continuation schools also. But the mover has referred to other things some of which are no doubt desirable. But I am not prepared unfortunately for a discussion on them.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : As for example, educating the members of this House.

MR. R. KRISHNASWAMI AIYAR (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I understood by the term 'adult education' that adults who did not have any opportunities of going to school in their early days and who having in after life to earn their living by working as coolies are unable to go to a day-school should be provided with facilities for their education during their leisure hours.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That was what I thought.

MR. R. KRISHNASWAMI AIYAR (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I thought the mover might also perhaps have in mind continuation schools for the further education of those who pass out of, say, our Vernacular Middle Schools. It appeared to me that only these two classes of institutions could be covered by that term. But my

friend Mr. Raman Menon has given it a much wider significance. As I said, I am not prepared to embark on a discussion of all the various schemes which he appears to have for the improvement of the labouring classes which, according to him, include not only those that we ordinarily mean by that term, but even the members of this House, and in fact every educated man as we ordinarily understand the term.

I may, however, state what the Government have done and are doing in the matter of adult education as I understand it. They opened a night-school at a place called Melukara in the Pattanamtitta taluk in 1911 as an experimental measure. It was made permanent in 1915. Recently a proposal has been received for the transfer of that school to the Cherukoil Sadhujana Co-operative Society and that proposal has been recommended to the Government for sanction.

Night-schools are conducted all over the world by private agencies. Hence here also the Government have laid down that the department should not open more night-schools under its direct management.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I inform the Director of Public Instruction that in Germany what are called the extension schools are directly conducted by the Government?

MR. R. KRISHNASWAMI AIYAR (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): They are different from the night-schools that I just mentioned. These are intended for the illiterate labouring classes who are unable to attend day-schools. I looked up the quinquennial report on the progress of education in India and found therefrom that in no part of India have night-schools been started under the auspices of the Education Department.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): Was not the night-school at Melukara started by the Government?

MR. R. KRISHNASWAMI AIYAR (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes. But the Government started it only as an experimental measure. Four years after it was started, it was made permanent. And just now we propose handing it over to a co-operative society the members of which belong to the class which the night-school is intended to benefit.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I know whether night-schools receive grants?

MR. R. KRISHNASWAMI AIYAR (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): Yes.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): The resolution wants only a certain amount of money to be set apart for the purpose.

MR. R. KRISHNASWAMI AIYAR (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): It is only owing to the lack of more schools that more money is not set apart for the purpose. In the budget, provision has been made for just the number of night-schools that have come into existence and are in receipt of grants.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*): May I know the number of night-schools?

MR. R. KRISHNASWAMI AIYAR (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): I am coming to that. In 1919, a body of rules was sanctioned by the Government with regard to night-schools and those rules were revised in 1923. It was a copy of the revised rules that was furnished to Mr. Madhavan Pillai in reply to one of his interpellations in this session. According to those rules night-schools have to be accommodated in decent buildings which may be rented or erected for the purpose, or in day-school buildings rented for the purpose by the proprietors thereof. They must also be supplied with the necessary furniture and appliances. Instruction should be given for not less than two and not more than three hours between seven and ten. These are the more important rules. To every such school, the Government give a grant-in-aid of Rs. 3 per mensem to a teacher who has also work in a day-school and Rs. 5 per mensem to a teacher who has no other work. I may point out that this grant of Rs. 5 per mensem to a teacher in a night-school compares very favourably with the grant of Rs. 7½ given to teachers in Vernacular schools. The grant of Rs. 7½ is to a teacher who has full-time work and consequently has to teach for five hours a day, whereas here it is only two or three hours in the day for which the teacher has to work and yet he is paid Rs. 5. Lighting charges at the rate of Re. 1 per calendar month are also given, provided work is carried on fifteen or more days in a month. The proviso is inserted in order to prevent people from getting grant-in-aid by working only for a very small number of days in a month.

The numbers of aided night-schools during the last three years, viz., 1099, 1100 and 1101 were 15, 28 and 37 respectively. These aided night-schools are increasing and correspondingly the expenditure in regard them has also been increasing. The strength of these night schools was 505 at the end of 1099, 967 at the end of 1100, and 1081 at the end of last year. The resolution as it stands, wants the Government to set apart a certain sum for purposes of adult education. It appears to me that it is rather premature to do so now for it is not for want of necessary funds that more night-schools are not being started but only because private agencies which are the proper agencies for running such schools—they may be a body of philanthropic persons or co-operative societies or *karayogams* or any such association or body of persons—do not come forward to open them. If such bodies come forward with proposals for starting night-schools, the department will gladly afford to them facilities for doing so. In these circumstances, it will be seen that it is not for want of funds that the development of these schools is being impeded. Consequently, it seems to me that the time has not arrived for laying down that the Government should set apart a certain proportion of their revenues for the development of night schools.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): Cannot the work be done by the Government?

MR. R. KRISHNASWAMI AIYAR (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): If it is done by the Government, it would not for obvious reasons be quite

so efficient as it would be if done by private agencies. One reason is that in many cases, the people whom it is intended to benefit will have to be persuaded and coaxed in order to attend the schools and departmental agency is not the best agency for such a purpose. For that we require a body of men who are earnest in the matter and who work in a spirit of self-sacrifice with a view to uplift their depressed brethren. Unless we have such persons, it is not likely that satisfactory work will be turned out in these institutions.

I may also mention that the Government are giving grants-in-aid to several reading rooms and libraries. The amount so granted last year was about Rs. 2,300 and in the previous year it was Rs. 1,900.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): May I know the number of night-schools that are not in receipt of grants-in-aid?

MR. R. KRISHNASWAMI AIYAR (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): They are very few. I think the number is three. There were more such night schools in previous years. Some of them died out because they could not fulfil the very simple conditions which the Government required them to fulfil.

By means of grants to libraries, the Government are enabling grown up men and women to benefit themselves by having access to good and suitable books. This is what the Government are now doing and I do not think that the time has arrived for them to take any further step in this direction. In the circumstances, to provide more funds now will be to put the cart before the horse. I request Mr. Raman Menon to withdraw his resolution.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I only wanted to draw the attention of the Government to a certain direction in which the educational work of the Government may be made more useful and dynamic so as to suit the needs of the people. As I learn from Mr. Krishnaswami Aiyar that that aspect of the matter has not been sufficiently engaging the attention of the Government, I simply submit my resolution along with the explanation I offered in my speech for the consideration of the Government. With these words, I beg leave to withdraw the resolution.

The resolution was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

RECRUITMENT TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The next resolution stands in the name of Mr. Tariatu Kunjittomman, and it runs as follows:—

This Council recommends to the Government that definite arrangements be made at once to the effect that, when there are applicants belonging to more than one community, with the required educational qualifications, for vacancies in all departments, except the Devaswom and the Military departments, preference should be given to the members of the less represented communities and that, in cases where appointments are not so made, the aggrieved persons may appeal to the Government.